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SIPDIS

HHS FOR OS/OGHA - WILLIAM STEIGER

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [EAGR](#) [ECIN](#) [ECON](#) [ETRD](#) [NU](#) [OSCI](#) [TBIO](#) [TSPL](#)
SUBJECT: NICARAGUA: FOOD SAFETY MOU DELIVERED

REF: SECSTATE 97072

(U) On September 12, 2008, Post delivered to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MINREX) the Health and Human Services (HHS) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on multilateral and regional cooperation with regard to the safety of certain food, animal feed, cosmetics and medical products under HHS/Food and Drug Administration's jurisdiction. The MOU was delivered by diplomatic note making reference to the target signing date of the September 29-October 3 Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) meeting in Washington. Post will follow up with MINREX and the Ministries of Environment, Health, and Trade to ensure appropriate distribution and to encourage prompt consideration.

(U) We believe that it is unlikely that Nicaragua will be prepared to sign the MOU at the PAHO meeting at the end of September. Monday and Tuesday of next week, September 14 and 15, are official holidays, leaving just eight business days for the government to consider the MOU.
CALLAHAN